

REMARKS

This is responsive to the final Office Action dated September 19, 2008 (the Action). A Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 608899 to Hitoshi (Hitoshi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,842 to Winstead (Winstead). Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitoshi and Winstead in view of WO0241607 to John (John). Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitoshi and Winstead in view of GB 2339342 to White (White). Claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitoshi, Winstead, and John in view of WO0137229 to Guy (Guy). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitoshi, Winstead, and John in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,655,017 to David (David). Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitoshi, Winstead and John in view of EP 518578 to Noriyuki (Noriyuki).

It is noted that many of the references in the Action are referred to by the inventor's first name rather than the more conventional notation of referring to the inventor's last name. Applicant has retained the naming convention as presented in the Action for ease of reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

I. The Section 112 Rejections

The Action takes the position that the term "directly" in Claim 1 is not disclosed in the specification. Applicant submits that support for the term "directly" can be found, for example, in paragraph [0033], original Claim 2 and in Figures 2-6, 7A-7B, 8A-8B and 9A-9B of the current application with reference to the paragraph numbering of U.S. Publication No.

2006/0135056. However, in order to expedite prosecution, this term has been deleted from Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Section 112 rejection be withdrawn.

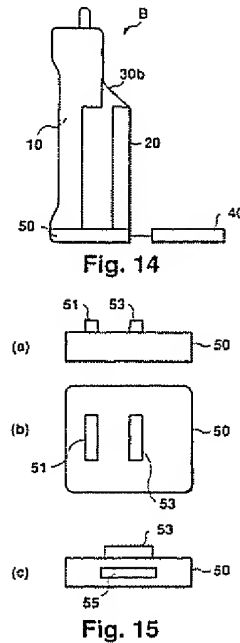
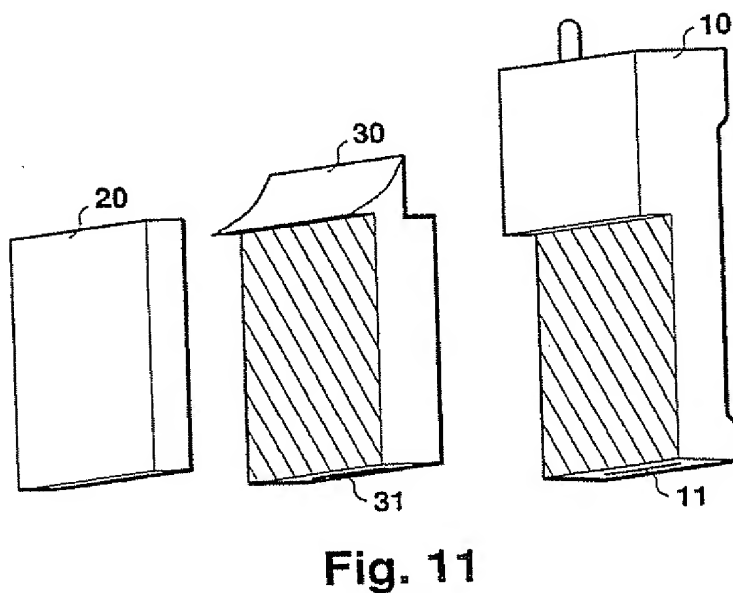
I. Claims 1-13 and 16-19

Applicant has amended Claim 1 for clarification. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 can be found, for example, in original Claims 2, 3 and 16 and in paragraphs [0038]-[0041]. In particular, Claim 1 as amended recites as follows with emphasis added:

1. A radio communication terminal assembly comprising a radio communication terminal having a printed circuit board carrying data processing means for controlling terminal functions, a terminal system connector accessible from the outside of the terminal for attaching auxiliary components to the terminal, attaching means for releasable attachment of a housing to the terminal, attaching means for releasable attachment of a housing to the terminal, and a housing connector configured to provide a communicative connection of an attached housing to the data processing means, wherein the terminal comprises and a multipath connector connected to the printed circuit board and to the data processing means, wherein the terminal system connector forms a first connector interface to the multipath connector, and the housing connector forms a second connector interface to the multipath connector.

For example, Figures 3 and 5-6 of Applicant's specification illustrate a radio communication terminal 1 including a printed circuit board carrying data processing means for controlling terminal functions, a terminal system connector 50 that is accessible from the outside of the terminal for attaching auxiliary components to the terminal, attaching means 27 for releasable attachment of a housing 30 to the terminal, and a housing connector for communicative connection of an attached housing to the data processing means. *See, e.g.*, paragraph [0038], Figures 3 and 5-6. As further illustrated in Figures 5-6, a multipath connector 17 is connected to the printed circuit board and to the data processing means such that the terminal system connector forms a first connector interface 50 to the multipath connector, and the housing connector forms a second connector interface 51 to the multipath connector. *See, e.g.*, paragraphs [0038]-[0041], original Claim 16 and Figures 5-6.

The Action states that the connectors 51 and 53 in Hitoshi are analogous to the housing connector recited in Claim 1. However, Applicant submits that Hitoshi does not disclose a multipath connector connected to the printed circuit board such that the terminal system connector forms a first connector interface to the multipath connector and a housing connector forms a second connector interface to the multipath connector. In contrast, the connectors 51 and 53 of Hitoshi do not form a connector interface to a multipath connector of the terminal as generally recited in Claim 1. Figures 11, 14 and 15a-15c of Hitoshi are reproduced below.



As is clearly shown, *e.g.*, in Figure 11, the terminal 10 includes a connector 11 for external connection and the additional device 30 includes an external connector 31. The connectors 11, 31 connect to a separate connector base 50. *See, e.g.*, Figure 14 and paragraph [0021]. Thus, Hitoshi clearly does not disclose that the terminal includes a multipath connector connected to the printed circuit board and to the data processing means, or that the terminal system connector forms a first connector interface to the multipath connector, and the housing connector forms a second connector interface to the multipath connector as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, there is no apparent reason to modify the separate connector base 50 of Hitoshi to provide the claimed terminal to include a multipath connector that is connected to the data processing means of the terminal, *e.g.*, as shown in Figures 5-6 of the current application. In particular, the terminal 10 of Hitoshi is configured to be removably attached to the base 50 and uses a separate, external connector 11 to form a connection with the separate connector base 50.

The missing elements of Hitoshi are not provided by Winstead, which is cited as allegedly disclosing a connector that is directly connected to a data processing means and clearly does not disclose a housing connector as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, the missing elements of Hitoshi are not provided by John, White, Guy, David or Noriyuki. For example, John proposes a detachable housing, but clearly does not disclose a multipath connector and/or a system connector as recited in Claim 1. White proposes a surface mount electrical connector for electrically connecting two PCBs of a mobile phone to a removable battery.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 2-13 and 16-19 depend from Claim 1 and are likewise patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-13 and 16-19 be withdrawn.

II. New Claim 21

Claim 21 depends from Claim 1 and is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. In addition, Claim 21 is separately patentable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 21 recites that the multipath connector includes the terminal system connector and the housing connector. Support for Claim 21 can be found, for example, in Figures 5 and 6. Applicant submits that the cited art does not disclose or render obvious a multipath connector that includes the terminal system connector and the housing connector as recited in Claim 21.

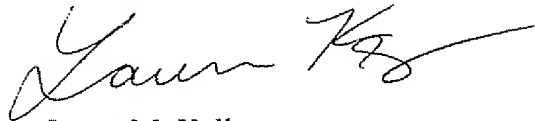
Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 21 is separately patentable over the cited prior art and respectfully request an indication of same.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



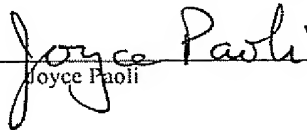
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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

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